

THE PRINCIPAL
A C T S
OF THE
General Assembly
OF THE
C H U R C H
O F
SCOTLAND,

Conveened at EDINBURGH, the 20th Day of May, 1773.

Collected and extracted from the Records by the Clerk thereof.



EDINBURGH:

Printed by ROBERT FLEMING, Printer to the Church of
Scotland. M,DCC,LXXIII.

A C T 2

OF THE

CHURCH

OF THE

SCOTLAND

AND THE

OF THE

42

4

2

81



Printed by James Ballantyne, Edinburgh, 1813.

THE PRINCIPAL
A C T S
OF THE
General Assembly
OF THE
CHURCH
OF
SCOTLAND

Begun at Edinburgh, the 20th Day of May 1773, and concluded
the 31st Day of said Month.

I.
The King's Commission to CHARLES Lord
Cathcart produced, and ordered to be
recorded.

Edinburgh, May 20th 1773.
THE General Assembly of this National Church
being convened and constituted, there was pro-
duced to them, by the Right Honourable CHARLES
Lord CATHCART, the King's Commission, sealed
with the Seal appointed by the Treaty of Union to be kept
and used in Scotland, in Place of the Great Seal of Scotland,
making and constituting him his Majesty's High Commis-
sioner and Representative in this Assembly; which Commis-
sion

tion was publickly read, with all due honour and respect, and ordered to be recorded in the books of Assembly: The tenor whereof follows:

“ **G** E O R G I U S, Dei gratia, Magnæ Britanniae,
 “ Franciæ, et Hiberniæ Rex, Fidei Defensor; omni-
 “ bus probis hominibus, ad quos præsentēs literæ nostræ per-
 “ venerint, salutem. Quandoquidem nos considerantes, quod
 “ generalis ecclesiæ Scotiæ conventus in vigesimum diem
 “ Maii proximi convenire ordinatus fuit; nosque etiam
 “ abunde cupidi, quinetiam necessarium esse judicantes in
 “ commodum dictæ ecclesiæ, ut idem generalis ecclesiæ con-
 “ ventus, diē statuto debite observetur, atque rebus magni
 “ momenti nos alio vocantibus, dicto conventui personaliter
 “ interesse nequimus; nosque abunde satisfacti de fidelitate
 “ et sufficientia fidelissimi et dilectissimi nostri consilarii
 “ Caroli Domini Cathcart quod ad summum munus ri-
 “ te exercendum et obeundum usquequaque sit instruc-
 “ tus; noveritis igitur nos nominasse, constituisse, et ordi-
 “ nasse, sicuti nos, tenore præsentium, nominamus, constitui-
 “ mus, et ordinamus, memoratum fidelissimum et prædilectis-
 “ simum nostrum consiliarium Carolum Dominum de Cath-
 “ cart, supremum nostrum Commissionarium dicto generali
 “ ecclesiæ conventui Scotiæ, dando et concedendo illi plenissi-
 “ mam nostram potestatem, commissionem, et warrantem, sa-
 “ cram nostram personam et auctoritatem regalem represen-
 “ tandi, necnon presentiam nostram supplendi, et locum no-
 “ strum in dicto subsequenti generali conventu, tanquam Com-
 “ missionario nostro ad hunc effectum specialiter constituto,
 “ tenendi, omniaque alia et imperium et munus Commissiona-
 “ rii pro generali ecclesiæ conventu peragendi, tam plene, ade-
 “ oque libere, in quovis respectu, quam quilibet alius ejusdem
 “ summi muneris fecerat, seu quovis tempore præterito facere
 “ potuerat, vel ac si nos ipsi personaliter præsentēs facere po-
 “ tuerimus. Quæque omnia et singula ab antedicto Do-
 “ mino Cathcart, in hac nostra commissione prosequen-
 “ da legitime fecerit, seu fieri ordinaverit, nos firmiter appro-
 “ bamus, et habituri sumus. Omnibus et singulis insuper
 “ antedictæ ecclesiæ et conventus pastoribus, et presbyteris,
 “ cæterisque quibuscunque, infra illam partem Magnæ Bri-
 “ tanniæ, Scotiam vocatam, subditis nostris quibuscunque,
 “ enjuscunque

“cujuscunque gradus, seu qualitatis, ut dictum Carolum
 “Dominum Cathcart, tanquam supremum nostrum Com-
 “missionarium, quoad effectum et modum supra mentiona-
 “tum revereantur, agnoscant, et dicti ipsius audientes se
 “præbeant, strictè mandamus et imperamus: Atque hanc
 “nostram Commissionem, a dicto vigesimo die proximi
 “incipire, et deinceps hac subsequente sessione dicti ge-
 “neralis conventus, in vigore continuare declaramus, vel
 “usque dum a nobis revocabitur, et exonerabitur. In cujus
 “rei testimonium, sigillum nostrum per Unionis tractatum
 “custodiend. et in Scotia, vice et loco Magni Sigilli ejus-
 “dem, utend. ordinat. præsentibus appendi mandavimus;
 “apud aulam nostram apud St James’s die mensis
 “Aprilis anno Domini millesimo septingentesimo, septuagesi-
 “mo tertio, regnique nostri anno decimo tertio. Per signatu-
 “ram manu S. D. N. regis superscript.”



II.

The KING's most gracious letter to the
General Assembly, presented to them
by his Majesty's Commissioner.

GEORGE R.

RIGHT Reverend and well-beloved, We greet you well.
 It is with the greatest pleasure that we renew the as-
 surances of our very favourable and gracious dispositions to-
 wards you, and of our readiness to maintain the Church of
 Scotland in all its rights and privileges, as by law established.
 The invariable proofs we have received of the duty, loyalty,
 and affection of the General Assembly, convince us of your
 steady and unshaken zeal in the cause of true religion and vir-
 tue, as well as of the continuance of those endeavours, which
 have been so laudably exerted for the suppression of vice and
 immorality; and as such a conduct cannot fail to have the
 most salutary effects, by enforcing the observance of those

B

duties

duties, which the true religion and laws of our kingdoms require, and thereby to increase the happiness of our people, it will ever meet with our royal countenance and support.

The spirit of harmony and unanimity, which has so long and so uninterruptedly prevailed in all your deliberations, is so essential to the advancement of those measures, which you may judge necessary for the general good of mankind, that we are persuaded your councils will remain unswayed by personal animosities and altercations; and that your endeavours will be exerted in the great cause of piety and Christian benevolence, and to the suppression of profaneness and licentiousness.

We have made choice of our Right Trusty and Well beloved Councillor Charles Lord Cathcart, to represent our royal person in this Assembly. His loyalty, integrity, and zeal for our service, we have long experienced; and we are fully convinced, from the many proofs he has already given of his steady attachment to the prosperity of the Church of Scotland, and of his abilities on former occasions in the discharge of the duties of this important trust, that he will be highly acceptable to you; and that your proceedings will be attended with such unanimity and brotherly love, as cannot fail to secure a happy conclusion to this your meeting: And so we bid you heartily farewell.

Given at our Court at St James's, the 30th day
of April 1773, in the thirteenth year of
our reign.

By his Majesty's command,

(Signed) SUFFOLK.

III.

The General Assembly's Answer to the King's most gracious Letter.

May it please your Majesty,

YOUR Majesty's most gracious Letter was received by us with all the respect and gratitude due to so great a mark of your royal favour.

The assurances which your Majesty is pleased to give us of your favourable disposition towards us, and of your intention to maintain the Church of Scotland in all its rights and privileges, as by law established, cannot but afford us the highest satisfaction; and we rely upon them with the firmest security.

The approbation which you so graciously signify of our past conduct, is to us a new and powerful motive to merit the continuance of your future favour, by holding on in the conscientious discharge of those duties, which your Majesty's paternal wisdom is pleased to point out. To advance the great interests of religion and virtue; to discourage vice and immorality by every means in our power; to promote a due regard to that happy constitution, sacred and civil, with which we are blessed, and an inviolable affection to your Majesty's Person and Government, we are thoroughly sensible are the great ends for which we are now assembled; and it shall be our study to convince your Majesty that these ends are by us kept invariably in view.

We are no less sensible of the importance of attending to what you are pleased to recommend to us, concerning the preservation of a spirit of unanimity, harmony and concord; without which, we are satisfied, the deliberations of no ecclesiastical Assembly can be conducted with propriety, nor their decisions be attended with due effect.

We beg leave to return our humble and grateful acknowledgments to your Majesty, on account of your royal Donation for the propagation of Christian knowledge in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. It shall be our endeavour to apply the sum appropriated by your bounty for that purpose, in such a manner

ner as may best answer the pious and useful design for which it is bestowed.

The choice which your Majesty has been pleased to make of Lord Cathcart, for representing your Royal Person in this Assembly, we cannot but consider as an additional mark of your favour. The approved fidelity and ability of that Noble Lord in the discharge of those high trusts which have been committed to him, and the experience which we formerly had on several occasions of his zeal for Religion, and his high affection and regard to this Church, render the choice which your Majesty has at this time made extremely acceptable to us all.

That Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, may protect your Person, direct your Councils, and prosper your administration; that he may bless your Royal Consort the Queen, the Prince of Wales, and all your Royal Family; and that, after having long beheld the increasing felicity of your people, you may late ascend those happy Regions, where pious and virtuous Princes shall shine as the brightness of the firmament, and be distinguished with an everlasting Crown; are the earnest Prayers of,

May it please your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most faithful,

Most obedient,

And most loyal Subjects,

The Ministers and Elders met in this National
Assembly of the Church of Scotland,

Signed in our name,

In our presence,

And at our appointment, by

JOHN DRYSDALE, Moderator.

EDINBURGH,

20th May, 1773.

The

IV.

The General Assembly's congratulatory
Address to the King, on the happy
event of the Birth of a Prince.

May it please your Majesty,

WE your Majesty's most dutiful, and loyal subjects, the Ministers and Elders met in the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, beg leave to take this first opportunity of presenting our respectful congratulations upon the birth of another Prince.

Attached as we are to your Majesty no less by love and affection than by principles of duty, we most sincerely rejoice in every event which adds to your domestic felicity. We consider every increase of your Royal Family as a further security to our religion and liberties: And we adore that divine Goodness which affords us the happy prospect of these kingdoms remaining through the course of ages, under the government of that august House, to which, under God, we are indebted for the most inestimable blessings.

We esteem ourselves happy in being able to assure your Majesty, that the same sentiments of duty and affection, which we entertain, prevail amongst the people under our care. Unperverted, and firm in their loyalty, they take equal part with us in every event which is auspicious to your family or government; and, with one heart and one voice, gratefully acknowledge the felicity enjoyed under your Majesty's most mild, legal, and paternal administration.

That the Great God of Heaven, by whom Kings reign, may ever keep you under his gracious protection; that he may bless the Queen, the Prince of Wales,

C

and

and all your Royal Family; and that to every circumstance of domestic and public prosperity, he may add the highest spiritual, and eternal rewards, are the earnest Prayers of,

May it please your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most faithful,

Most obedient,

And most loyal subjects,

The Ministers and Elders met in this National Assembly of the Church of Scotland,

Signed in our name,

In our presence,

And at our appointment, by

JOHN DRYSDALE, *Moderator.*

EDIN. 23d
May 1773.

Commission

V.

Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for Reformation of the Highlands and Islands, and for managing his Majesty's Royal Bounty for that end.

THE General Assembly do hereby nominate and appoint the Reverend Dr John Drysdale, one of the ministers of Edinburgh, their Moderator, all the ministers members of the presbytery of Edinburgh, Mr Adam Ferguson at Moulin, Dr Andrew Gray at Abernethy, Mr Harry Inglis at Fortiviot, Mr Robert Ure at Airth, Mr John Storer at Fossaway, Mr James Robertson at Calendar, Mr Robert Stark at Kinross, Mr Matthew Mitchell at Auchterderran, Mr William Gourlay at Ffisk, Dr James Gillespie at St Andrews, Mr James Ogilvie at Easby, Dr John Young at Inverarity, Dr James Blenshall at Dundee, Mr John Carnegie at Inverkiller, Mr James Patton at Craig, Mr Robert Young at Benholm, Mr George Abercrombie at Aberdeen, Mr John Ramsay at Strachan, Mr Robert Lumfden at Kildrummy, Mr Alexander Stewart at Leslie, Mr George Moir at Peterhead, Mr George Grant at Ruthven, Mr Algernoon Gordon at Kieth, Mr John Grant at Abernethy, Mr David Rentoul at Elgin, Mr James Munro at Kinloss, Mr Robert Rose at Inverness, Mr George Balfour at Tarbat, Mr John M'Lennan at Con-ten, Mr Alexander M'Kay at Barvis, Mr Allan MacQueen at Northuisht, Mr Colin M'Farquhar at Applecross, Mr Murdo M'Iver at Lochalsh, Mr George Munro at Farr, Mr James Brodie at Leatherin, Mr Nicol Spence at Westrae, Mr James Lindsay at Kirkliston, Mr John M'Caul at Semington, Mr William Dalglish at Peebles, Dr Alexander Carlisle at Inveresk, Mr Robert Scot at Haddington, Mr John Lundie at Oldham-
stocks,

stocks, Mr William Hume at Foggo, Mr George Hume
 at Ayton, Dr Thomas M'Dougal at Mackerston, Mr
 John Cranston at Ancrum, Mr John Dickie at Lang-
 holm, Mr Mathew Cleghorn at Drysdale, Mr Bryce
 Johnston at Holywood, Mr John Campbell at Carsfairn,
 Mr David Henderson at Wigtoun, Mr John Cunning-
 ham at Monkton, Mr Gilbert Lang at Largs, Mr Colin
 Campbell at Renfrew, Mr James Morison at Paisley,
 Mr Robert Park at Old-monkland, Mr James Scot at
 Carluke, Dr John Gillies at Glasgow, Mr John Hamil-
 ton at Cathcart, Mr John Freebairn at Dunbarton, Mr
 James Melvill at Denoon, Mr George M'Leish at Sad-
 dle, Mr Paul Frazer at Craigneith, Mr Ludovick Grant
 at Ardchattan, Mr Joseph M'Intyre at Glenorchie, Mr
 Archibald M'Arthur at Kilninian, Mr David Campbell
 at Southend, Mr Archibald Campbell at Kilcalmonel,
 Professor Robert Trail, Glasgow, Dr Walker at Mos-
 fat, Mr Alexander Chalmers at Cairney, Ministers;
 Professor Adam Ferguson, Mr Niel Ferguson advocate,
 Mr Alexander Bellches advocate, Bailie James Gentle,
 William Adam younger of Maryburgh, Mr Alexander
 Hart writer, James Balmayne, Esq; Samuel Charteris,
 Esq; Mr William Chalmers writer, Mr Andrew Balfour
 advocate, Mr Walter Coffar merchant, Mr George
 Wallace advocate, the Hon. Baron Maul, Mr John
 Scot advocate, Mr George Hume baker, Edinburgh,
 James Cunningham of Hyndhope, Esq; Mr Thomas
 Hogg advocate, Alexander Leith of Glenkindy, Esq;
 Professor Thomas Gordon, Mr David Dalrymple advo-
 cate, Mr John Robertson writer, Edinburgh, the Hon.
 Charles Hope-Weir, Esq; Mr Isaac Grant writer to the
 signet, Dr Gregory Grant physician in Edinburgh,
 Bailie Anthony Ferguson, Mr Sampson factor to the
 Earl of Hopeton, Provost James Stewart, Edinburgh,
 Conveener John Lindsay, Robert Chalmers of Larbert,
 Esq; Mr Walter Gibson surgeon in Leith, Professor
 John Pringle, George Buchan, Esq; of Kello, Mr
 William M'Donald writer to the signet, Mr John Mos-
 man merchant, Bailie John Lothian, Edinburgh, Con-
 veener Thomas Simpson, Edinburgh, Bailie Thomas
 Elder, Edinr. Mr John Learmonth merchant, Edinr.
 Bailie John Grieve, Edinburgh, the Hon. Gilbert Lau-
 rie, Esq; Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Conveener Thomas
 Herriot,

Herriot, Mr William Baillie advocate, the Lord Advocate, Lord President, Charles Brown younger of Coalston, Esq; Francis Kinloch younger of Gilmerton, Esq; Hugh Dalrymple younger of North Berwick, Esq; Solicitor Dundas, Mr John Tait of Pirn, the Earl of Lauderdale, Mr Adam Ogilvie advocate, Mr Alexander Orr writer to the signet, Mr William Hay writer to the signet, Mr Andrew Crossbie advocate, Mr Alex. Ferguson advocate, Mr Alex. Abercrombie writer to the signet, Dr Robert Finlay of Drummore, Conveener Orlando Hart, John Hamilton of Bargenny, Esq; the Hon. Patrick Boyle, Sir James Stewart of Coltness, Sir James Colquhoun of Luss, John Lamont of Lamont, Esq; Duncan M'Millan of Dunmore, Esq; Mr Arch. M'Donald advocate, Mr Alexander Murray advocate, Mr James Loch writer to the signet, Dr James Williamson, Lord Stonefield, Mr Allan M'Dougal writer to the signet, Mr Cosmo Gordon advocate, and Mr George Currie advocate, Ruling Elders; to be a committee of this Assembly, for reformation of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, for promoting the knowledge of true Religion, suppressing Popery and profaneness, and for managing the Royal Bounty for these ends, according to, and in terms of his Majesty's Grant to this Assembly. In prosecution of which purposes, the committee are to appoint preachers and catechists to go to such places as they shall find, upon due information, to be most proper, according to his Majesty's design expressed in his warrant; and, in so doing, that they have particular regard to such parishes in South Uist, Small-Isles, Glenco, Harris, the countries of Moidart, Glengary, and Lochaber, and the other parishes of the synods of Glenelg and Argyle, which the committee shall find, by reason of their vast extent, by the prevalency of Popery and ignorance, and other unhappy circumstances, to be in the greatest distress: And they shall take care, that the persons they employ be certified, and found, upon due trial, to be properly qualified for these respective offices, of good abilities for the same, of a pious life and conversation, prudent, of undoubted loyalty to his Majesty, and of competent skill in the principles of divinity, and particularly in Popish controversies:

D

troverfies: Such preachers and catechifts being hereby appointed to be fubject to, and under the infpection of, the prefbyteries of the bounds to which they are fent, who are to take care that the orders of the committee be duly obferved by them. And the preachers are alfo appointed to catechife; and both they and the catechifts to inftruct the people from houfe to houfe, and to vifit the fick: And, in all their labours among the people, to be careful to teach them the principles and duties of the true Chriftian Proteftant religion, and the obligations they are under to duty and loyalty to our Sovereign King George, and obedience to the laws: And the committee are impowered to give them fuch inftructions, as to their work and behaviour, as they fhall judge meet; which inftructions the preachers and catechifts are hereby ordered to obey. The General Affembly do further appoint the faid committee to have a particular regard in their proceedings to the regulations agreed upon by the committee of the Affembly for managing the Royal Bounty, on the 30th of September 1730, approved by frequent Affemblies; and to take care that prefbyteries, and others concerned, obferve the fame, which they are hereby ordered to do: Particularly, the Affembly ordains the feveral prefbyteries to infert in their registers, the committee's appointments of the designations, faldaries, and ftations of the feveral miffionaries, and to have an exact regard thereto, in all the letters they fhall write about the faid miffionaries, and in giving of certificates to them; and to direct all their letters concerning miffionaries in their bounds, only to the moderator of the committee; which letters fhall be figned, at the appointment of the prefbytery, by the moderator or clerk thereof: And the Affembly does difcharge any payment to be made of the faldaries of the miffionaries, except upon receipts from the miffionaries themfelves, and upon certificates from the Prefbyteries, bearing that they have ferved for the time mentioned in the receipts. The General Affembly do alfo impower the faid committee to apply, for the purpofes above mentioned, what may remain of the laft year's Royal Bounty not difpofed of, by reafon of any of the miffionaries not fulfilling the appointments

ments laid upon them: And they are to keep a register of their proceedings, and likewise distinct books of accompts, how the foresaid money is bestowed, which shall be patent to any concerned, who please to inspect the same. Of the persons above named as members of this committee, five are declared to be a quorum, whereof three are to be ministers. But it is hereby appointed, that at the quarterly meeting of the committee, in which the scheme or establishment of missionaries for the ensuing year is to be approved and determined, not less than fourteen shall be the quorum, whereof nine shall be ministers, and the said committee are appointed to have their general meetings at Edinburgh, the first lawful day after the adjournment of the four stated diets of the commission of the General Assembly, within the Assembly Isle, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, except that day shall fall to be Saturday, and then the meeting shall be upon Monday next thereafter, at the said hour: with power to the said committee to adjourn themselves to such times and places, as they shall find most needful and convenient; and they are to keep a correspondence with the commission of the General Assembly, and the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, and their committee of directors, and to take their advice and assistance; and also to correspond with the synods and presbyteries concerned. They are likewise instructed and impowered, as they shall see cause, to apply to the Government, or any magistrate, for assistance and support in carrying on the design of the commission now given to them. And the General Assembly do by these presents nominate and appoint Mr David Dalrymple advocate, procurator for the Church, to be receiver of the foresaid Royal Bounty, and to pay out the same as he shall be directed and ordered by the said committee, and according to their rules. And the said committee are appointed to examine the accompts of the distribution of the Royal Bounty, and lay the same before the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury, or the Barons of his Majesty's Court of Exchequer, and to report their diligence to the General Assembly, to whom they are to be accountable. And it is agreed, that no person
once

once employed and insert in the scheme, shall be struck out thereof for that year, but by the quorum of at least fourteen, whereof nine to be ministers; and in case any complaint shall be made against any of them on the scheme, it shall not be determined the first ordinary meeting that the same is offered, but it shall ly on the table till another meeting; and, in the meantime, the person complained of, and the presbytery of the bounds wherein he officiates, shall be acquainted of such complaint, and these concerned be required to send to the said committee a just account of the matter, against the next meeting. And it is further appointed, That after the yearly scheme of missionaries on the Royal Bounty is settled in manner above directed, and notice thereof given by letters to the presbyteries concerned, such presbyteries shall send up to the said committee, their answer to these letters, at farthest with their commissioners to the General Assembly, if the same be not done sooner; and that the committee, at their first meeting after the General Assembly, shall endeavour to compleat the next year's scheme themselves; and if they cannot compleat it, they shall name a sub-committee of their number for that purpose, who are to lay their draught thereof before a subsequent meeting, which are appointed to meet as soon after the rising of the Assembly as possible. And that the said committee, in making up the scheme of missionaries, &c. do not exceed the sum in the Grant.

Commission

VI.

Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for discussing Affairs referred to them.

THE General Assembly, considering that there are diverse affairs which they cannot overtake, do hereby nominate, commissionate, and appoint the Rev. Dr John Drysdale, one of the ministers of Edinburgh, their moderator; and from the presbytery of Dunkeld, Mr Adam Ferguson at Moulin, Mr James Bisset at Caputh, Mr Alexander Small at Kirkmichael, Mr Alexander Ogilvy at Clunie, ministers, Professor Adam Ferguson, and Mr Niel Ferguson advocate, ruling elders; From the presbytery of Perth, Dr Andrew Gray at Abernethy, Mr Harry Inglis at Forteviot, Mr William Taylor at Rhynd, Mr James Moodie at Perth, ministers, Mr Alexander Belsches advocate, and Bailie John Caw, ruling elders; From the burgh of Perth, Provost William Stewart; From the presbytery of Stirling, Mr Robert Ure at Airth, Mr Thomas Fergus at Denny, ministers; and Mr Alexander Cuthel baker in Stirling, ruling elder; From the presbytery of Auchterarder, Mr John Storer at Fossoway, Mr Archibald Rannie at Muckart, Mr John Scot at Muthel, ministers, and Bailie James Gentle brewar in Canongate, ruling elder; From the presbytery of Dumblane, Mr James Robertson at Callender, Mr Robert Stirling at Port, ministers, and Captain John Campbell of Kilpunt, ruling elder; From the presbytery of Dunfermline, Mr Robert Stark at Kinross, Mr Andrew Richardson at Innerkeithing, Mr James Bathgate at Dalgety, ministers, and William Adam younger of Maryburgh, Esq; ruling elder; From the burgh of Dunfermline, Mr Alexander Hart Clerk of Justiciary; From the burgh of Culross, Mr David

E

Ireland

Ireland town-clerk of Culrofs; From the burgh of Innerkeithing, Dean of Guild Andrew Turnbull; From the presbytery of Kirkcaldy, Mr Matthew Mitchell at Auchterderran, Mr Alexander Spears at Kirkcaldy, Mr John Pinkerton at Markinch, ministers, and Mr John Hay in Burntisland, ruling elder; From the burgh of Kinghorn, James Balmain, Esq; From the burgh of Burntisland, Samuel Charteris, Esq; From the presbytery of Cupar, Mr William Gourley at Flisk, Mr Michael Greenlaw at Criech, Mr Robert Bogie at Logie, Mr Robert M'Culloch at Dairsie, ministers, the Hon. Capt. Frederick Maitland, and Mr Alexander Melvill, ruling elders; From the burgh of Cupar, Major John Melvill of Cairny; From the presbytery of St Andrews, Mr Andrew Shaw professor of divinity, Principal Murison, Dr James Gillespie at St Andrews, Mr John Adamson there, ministers, James Duddiston of St Ford, Esq; and Professor George Hill, ruling elders; From the burgh of St Andrews, Mr William Chalmers writer in Edinburgh; From the University of St Andrews, Professor John Cook; From the burgh of Pittenweem, James Durham of Largo, Esq; From the burgh of Crail, Mr Andrew Balfour advocate; From the burgh of Kilrenny, Mr Walter Coffar deputy Comptroller of Excise; From the presbytery of Meigle, Mr James Ogilvy at Eassie, Mr James Edward at Lintrathen, Mr Colin Symmers at Alyth, ministers, and Patrick Alison of Newhall, Esq; ruling elder; From the presbytery of Forfar, Dr John Young at Inverarity, Mr George Nicol at Kinnettles, ministers, and Mr George Wallace advocate, ruling elder; From the presbytery of Dundee, Mr James Henderson at Monyfieth, Dr James Blenshall at Dundee, Mr Robert Small, ministers, and Conveener Andrew Jobson, ruling elder; From the presbytery of Aberbrothick, Mr John Carnegie at Inverkiller, Mr Patrick Bryce at Carmylie, ministers, and the Hon. Baron Maule, ruling elder; From the presbytery of Brechin, Mr James Paton at Craig, Mr Charles Nisbet at Montrose, Mr Andrew Gray at Carraldstone, ministers, and Mr John Scot advocate, ruling elder; From the burgh of Montrose, Mr Adam Glegg, merchant; From the presbytery of Fordoun, Mr Robert Young

at

at Benholm, Mr David Forbes at Laurence-kirk, Mr James Walker at Dunnoter, ministers, and Mr George Home baker in Edinburgh, ruling elder; From the burgh of Bervie, Joseph Gavin of Mainpoint, Esq; From the presbytery of Aberdeen, Mr George Abercrombie at Aberdeen, Mr Samuel Copland at Fintry, Mr John Brown at Newhills, Mr David Cruden at Nigg, ministers, Sir James Cockburn, and James Cunningham of Hyndhope, Esq; ruling elders; From the presbytery of Kincardine-O'Neil, Mr Francis Downie at Banchoryterran, Mr John Ramsay at Strathaven, Mr William Shand at Lumphannan, ministers, and Thomas Hogg of Newliston, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; From the presbytery of Alford, Mr Theodore Gordon at Kennethmont, Mr Robert Lumsden at Kildrummy, Mr Alexander Angus at Tulliness, ministers, and Alexander Lieth of Glenkindy, Esq; ruling elder; From the presbytery of Ellon, Mr Thomas Mitchell at Tarves, Mr John Rose at Udney, ministers, and Professor Thomas Gordon, ruling elder; From the presbytery of Garioch, Mr Alexander Stewart at Leslie, Mr George Adams at Kintore, Mr William Davidson at Inverury, ministers, and the Procurator, ruling elder; From the burgh of Inverury, John Clark of Eldin, Esq; From the the presbytery of Deer, Mr George Moir at Peterhead, Mr Andrew Youngson at Aberdour, Mr Charles Kay at Old Deer, ministers, and Mr John Taylor writer in Edinburgh, ruling elder; From the presbytery of For-dyce, Mr Walter Morrison at Deskford, Mr George Grant at Rathven, ministers, and Mr John Robertson writer in Edinburgh, ruling elder; From the burgh of Banff, the Hon. Charles Hope-Weir, Esq; From the presbytery of Strathbogie, Mr Alexander Chalmers at Cairnie, Mr Algernoon Gordon at Keith, ministers, and Mr Cosmo Gordon advocate, ruling elder; From the presbytery of Aberlour, Mr Thomas Johnston at Boharm, Mr John Dunbar at Knockando, ministers, and Mr Isaac Grant writer to the signet, ruling elder; From the presbytery of Abernethy, Mr William Blair at Kinguissie, Mr John Grant at Abernethy, ministers, and Dr Gregory Grant physician in Edinburgh, ruling elder; From the presbytery of Elgin, Mr David Rentoul at
Elgin,

Elgin, Mr Thomas M'Farlane at Longbride, ministers, and Bailie Anthony Fergusson, ruling elder ; From the burgh of Elgin, Mr David Sampson factor to the Earl of Hopetoun : From the presbytery of Forres, Mr James Monro at Kinloss, Mr Duncan Shaw at Rafford, ministers, and Provost James Stewart, ruling elder ; From the presbytery of Inverness, Mr Robert Rose at Inverness, Mr Alexander Grant at Daviot, ministers, and Conveener John Lindsay, ruling elder ; From the presbytery of Chanonry, Mr David Denoon at Killiernan, Mr Walter Morison at Ardiseer, ministers, and Bailie John Walker merchant in Edinburgh, ruling elder ; From the presbytery of Tain, Mr George Balfour at Tarbet, Mr Hugh Rose at Tain, ministers, and David Ross of Innerhasly, Esq; ruling elder ; From the burgh of Tain, Robert Chalmers of Larbert, Esq; From the presbytery of Dingwall, Mr John M'Lennan at Contin, Mr Adam Rose at Dingwall, ministers, and Mr Walter Gibson surgeon in Leith, ruling elder ; From the presbytery of Lewis, Mr Alexander M'Kay at Baras, Mr James Wilson at Lochs, ministers, and Professor John Pringle, ruling elder ; From the presbytery of Uist, Mr Angus M'Neill at Bara, Mr Allan M'Queen at North Uist, ministers, and George Buchan of Kello, Esq; ruling elder ; From the presbytery of Gairloch, Mr Colin M'Farquhar at Applecross, Mr Murdo M'Iver at Lochalsh, ministers, and William M'Donald writer to the Signet, ruling elder ; From the presbytery of Tong, Mr George Monro at Farr, Mr Alexander Falconer at Edrachillis, ministers, and Mr John Mossman merchant in Edinburgh, ruling elder ; From the presbytery of Caithness, Mr James Brodie at Latheron, Mr James Brodie at Canisby, ministers, and Bailie John Lothian merchant in Edinburgh, ruling elder ; From the presbytery of Kirkwall, Mr John Yule at Kirkwall, Mr James Weir at South-Ronaldshay, ministers, and Conveener Thomas Simpson, ruling elder ; From the presbytery of Cairnston, Mr John Reid at Orphir, Mr Hugh Sutherland at Birza, ministers, and Bailie Thomas Elder merchant in Edinburgh, ruling elder ; From the presbytery of North Isles, Mr Alexander Pitcairn at Shapinshay, Mr Nicol Spence at Westray, ministers, and

and Mr John Learmonth merchant in Edinburgh, ruling elder; From the presbytery of Zetland, Mr Patrick Mair at Brassay, Mr David M'Robert at Nesting, ministers, and Bailie John Grieve merchant in Edinburgh, ruling elder: From the presbytery of Edinburgh, Professor Hamilton, Mr Will. Bennet at Duddingston, Dr Hugh Blair, Mr James Brown, Dr William Gloag, Mr William Lothian, Canongate, ministers, Sir Alexander Dick of Priestfield, Provost Dalrymple, and Mr John Todd merchant, ruling elders; From the city of Edinburgh, the Honourable Gilbert Laurie, Esq; Lord Provost, and Conveener Thomas Herriot; From the University of Edinburgh, Principal Robertson; From the presbytery of Linlithgow, Mr James Lindsay at Kirkliston, Mr John Aitchieson at Falkirk, Mr James Hogg at Linlithgow, Mr Robert Wishart at Livingstone, ministers, Mr William Baillie advocate, and Bailie Robert Clark, ruling elders; From the burgh of Linlithgow, Provost Henry Gillies; From the burgh of Queensferry, Mr Walter Scott merchant in Edinburgh; From the presbytery of Biggar, Mr John M'Caul at Symington, Mr John Thomson at Walston, Mr John Noble at Libberton, ministers, and Mr John Mitchell at Hairetree-mill, ruling elder; From the presbytery of Peebles, Mr Thomas Findlater at Linton, Mr William Dalgliesh at Peebles, ministers, and the Lord Advocate, ruling elder; From the presbytery of Dalkeith, Dr Alexander Carlyle at Inveresk, Mr Thomas M'Courtie at Pennycook, Mr John Gourlay at Fala, ministers, and the Lord President, ruling elder; From the presbytery of Haddington, Mr Patrick Carfrae at Morham, Mr Henry Sangster at Humbie, Mr Robert Scott at Haddington, ministers, and Charles Brown younger of Coalston, Esq; ruling elder; From the burgh of Haddington, Francis Kinloch younger of Gilmerton, Esq; From the burgh of North-Berwick, Hugh Dalrymple younger of North-Berwick, Esq; From the presbytery of Dunbar, Mr John Lundie at Old Hamstocks, Mr David Spence at Cockburnspath, ministers, and James Wilkie of Gilkerton, Esq; ruling elder; From the presbytery of Dunse, Mr William Home at Foggo, Mr Robert Home at Polwart, ministers, and Mr Matthew Sandilands writer in

Edinburgh, ruling elder; From the presbytery of Chirnside, Mr George Home at Ayton, Mr William Redpath at Edrom, ministers, and Sir John Stewart of Allankbank, ruling elder; From the presbytery of Kelfo, Mr Cornelius Lundie at Kelfo, Dr Thomas M'Dougal at Mackerston, ministers, and Mr Solicitor Dundas, ruling elder; From the presbytery of Jedburgh, Mr John Cranston at Ancrum, Mr Thomas Somervill at Minto, Mr Samuel Charteris at Wilton, ministers, and Mr John Laurie preacher of the gospel, ruling elder; From the presbytery of Lauder, Mr Robert Dawson at Stow, Mr Alexander Duncan at Gordon, ministers, and Mr John Tait of Pirn, ruling elder; From the burgh of Lauder, the Right Hon. the Earl of Lauderdale; From the presbytery of Selkirk, Mr David Clark at Maxton, Mr Thomas Robertson at Selkirk, ministers, and Mr Adam Ogilvie advocate, ruling elder; From the burgh of Selkirk, Mr George Currie advocate: From the presbytery of Annan, Mr Alexander Brown at Hoddam, Mr Andrew Jeffray at Ruthwell, ministers, and Alexander Orr of Waterfide, Esq; ruling elder: From the burgh of Annan, William Hay of Crawfordtown, Esq; From the presbytery of Langholm, Mr John Dickie at Langholm, Mr John Scotland at Westerkirk, ministers, and Mr Andrew Crosbie advocate, ruling elder; From the presbytery of Lochmaben, Mr Matthew Cleghorn at Drysdale, Mr William Bryden at Dalton, Mr David Donaldson at Wamphray, ministers, and Mr John Murray tenant in Kinnelhead, ruling elder; From the burgh of Lochmaben, Mr William Dickson: From the presbytery of Penpont, Mr William Keyden at Penpont, Mr John Thomson at Sanquhar, ministers, and Mr William Martin, ruling elder; From the burgh of Sanquhar, Alexander Ferguson of Craigdarroch advocate: From the presbytery of Dumfries, Mr William Clark at Kirkgunion, Mr James M'Millan at Torthorwald, Mr Bryce Johnston at Holywood, ministers, and Thomas Maxwell of Drumpark, Esq; ruling elder; From the burgh of Dumfries, Mr John Clark writer in Dumfries: From the presbytery of Kirkeubright, Mr Nathaniel M'Kie at Crossmichael, Mr John Campbell at Carsfairn, Mr Robert Mutter at Kirkcudbright, ministers, and Mr

Mr William Nabbonie, ruling elder ; From the burgh of Kirkcudbright, Mr Alexander Abercrombie writer to the signet : From the burgh of New Galloway, Mr William Chalmers surgeon in Edinburgh : From the presbytery of Wigtoun, Mr David Henderson at Wigtoun, Mr Robert Henderson at Kirkinner, ministers, and Mr William M'Culloch writer in Edinburgh, ruling elder ; From the burgh of Wigtoun, James Ramsay, Esq; Collector of Excise at Dumfries : From the presbytery of Stranraer, Mr John Coulter at Stranraer, Mr Robert Callander at Kirkmaiden, ministers, and Dr Robert Finlay of Drummorie, ruling elder ; From the burgh of Stranraer, Conveener Orlando Hart : From the presbytery of Ayr, Mr Thomas Walker at Dundonald, Mr David Shaw at Coiltown, Dr Robert Wait at Galstoun, Mr William M'Gill at Ayr, ministers, John Hamilton of Bargeny, Esq; and William Campbell younger of Fairfield, ruling elders ; From the presbytery of Irvine, Mr Gilbert Lang at Largs, Mr James Wodrow at Stevenson, Mr George Laurie at Lowdon, ministers, and the Hon. Patrick Boyle ruling elder ; From the burgh of Irvine, Mr Claud Marshall writer : From the presbytery of Paisley, Mr Colin Campbell at Renfrew, Dr John Adam at Greenock, Mr James Morison at Paisley, ministers, and Mr John Pattison town-treasurer of Paisley, ruling elder ; From the burgh of Renfrew, Mr William Adam tenant in Mosslands : From the presbytery of Hamilton, Mr Robert Park at Old Monkland, Dr James Baillie at Hamilton, Mr Michael M'Culloch at Bothwell, ministers, and Mr John Fleming of Newk, ruling elder ; From the presbytery of Lanark, Mr John Kingan at Crawford, Mr James Scott at Carluke, ministers, and Sir James Stewart of Coltness, Bart. ruling elder ; From the burgh of Lanark, Bailie Richard Tod : From the presbytery of Glasgow, Mr William Anderson at Gorbals, Dr John Gillies at Glasgow, Mr John Corse there, Mr John Hamilton at Cathcart, ministers, Bailie James Baird, and Mr John Pagan merchant ruling elders : From the city of Glasgow, Bailie John Shortridge ; From the university of Glasgow, Professor Robert Trail ; From the burgh of Rutherglen, Bailie John Shaw ;
From

From the presbytery of Dumbarton, Mr Archibald Smith at Strathblane, Mr David M'Gibbon at Buchanan, Mr John Freebairn at Dunbarton, ministers, and Sir James Colquhoun of Luss, Bart. ruling elder; From the presbytery of Denoon, Mr John Melvill at Denoon, Mr James Thorburn at Kingarth, ministers, and John Lamont of Lamont, Esq; ruling elder; From the burgh of Rothsay, Duncan M'Millan of Dunmore, Esq; From the presbytery of Kintyre, Mr David Campbell at Southend, Mr Archibald M'Neill at Kilcalmonell, Mr George M'Liesh at Saddle, ministers, and Archibald M'Donald, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; From the burgh of Campbeltoun, Mr Alexander Murray advocate; From the presbytery of Inverary, Mr John M'Aulay at Inverary, Mr Paul Frazer at Craignish, ministers, and Mr James Loch writer to the signet, ruling elder; From the burgh of Inverary, Dr James Williamson; From the presbytery of Lorn, Mr Ludovick Grant at Ardchalten, Mr Joseph M'Intyre at Glenorchy, ministers, and Lord Stonefield, ruling elder; From the presbytery of Mull, Mr Niel M'Leod at Ross, Mr Archibald M'Arthur at Kilninian, ministers, and Mr Allan M'Dougall writer to the signet, ruling elder; to be commissioners of this General Assembly, to the effect after-mentioned; with power to the said commissioners, or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any thirty-one of the said commissioners, whereof twenty-one are always to be ministers, to meet and convene within the Assembly-house at Edinburgh, the first day after the dissolution of this Assembly, at ten of the clock in the forenoon; and thereafter, the second Wednesday of August, third Wednesday of November, and the first Wednesday of March next to come, and oftner when and where they shall think fit and convenient, with power to the said commissioners to chuse their own moderator: And likeways, the General Assembly fully impowers their said commissioners, or their quorum above mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see cause, in every matter referred, or that shall be referred to them, by an act or order of this Assembly, and to do every thing contained in, and conform to the instructions given, or to be given

ven by this Assembly ; and to advert to the interest of the church on every occasion, that the church, and present establishment thereof do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable : Provided always, that this general clause be not extended to particular affairs, or processes before synods or presbyteries, that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon, the whole church. And it is hereby appointed, that no private processes be determined, except at the four stated diets ; and what shall be determined at one diet of the commission, with relation to private causes, shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force, till disapproved by the General Assembly. And the Assembly renews the instructions given by the General Assembly in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventeen, to their commission, and appoints the same to stand in full force, as instructions to the commissioners before-named, and to be observed by them in all points, as if the same were specially here insert ; and that they enquire into the publishing and spreading of books and pamphlets tending towards the promoting of opinions of whatever kind, inconsistent with our *Confession of Faith* ; and that the recommenders of such books or pamphlets, or the errors therein contained, whether by word, writ, or print, be called before the said commission to answer for the same. And further, the said commission is hereby impowered to receive any references and appeals that shall be made to them from synods, in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for the next General Assembly ; and to contribute what they can to the suppressing of vice and immorality, and give all needful advice and assistance to synods and presbyteries, upon application to them for that end : Likeways to take care that the impressions of the *holy Scriptures*, the *Confession of Faith* and *Catechisms*, and such books as are authorised by this church, relating to the doctrine, worship, discipline, and government thereof, be correct ; and give directions about printing the same. And the commissioners are appointed and impowered to keep a correspondence with the committee for reformation of the Highlands and Islands, for sup-
G pressing

pressing Popery and superstition, and for promoting the knowledge of true religion, and carrying on a reformation in these parts, and give assistance and concurrence therein; and, if need be, to apply to the Government for a proper remedy and speedy redress. And the said commissioners are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them, as above-mentioned: And, in all their actings, they are to proceed according to the acts and constitution of this church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same; declaring, that in, and for all their actings, they shall be accountable to, and censurable by the next General Assembly, as they shall see cause. And the General Assembly appoints the said commissioners particularly to observe the acts of the General Assemblies One thousand seven hundred and twelve, and One thousand seven hundred and nineteen, respecting the application of the public money; which two acts are printed among the acts of Assembly One thousand seven hundred and sixty-one. And this commission is to continue and endure until another commission be appointed; and members are required to attend the diets of the said commission; and absents therefrom are ordered to be noticed, according to the 17th act of the General Assembly held in the year One thousand seven hundred and six. And for the better securing of a quorum, and attendance of members on the commission, the General Assembly prohibits the presbytery of Edinburgh, or any other presbytery within twelve miles thereof, to meet on any of the days or weeks appointed for the meeting of this commission; and such of the members of these presbyteries as are on the commission, are required all of them to give attendance on the diets thereof; and the presbyteries at a greater distance, who have four or more members on the commission, are to take care, that at least two of them attend each diet of the same: And the General Assembly appoint their commission, at their first meeting, to discuss as many of the causes and questions relative to the settlement of vacant churches, which are, or shall be referred to them by the Assembly, as they can undertake.

take. And it is further provided, that when any presbytery, or synod of this church, shall decline to comply with the sentence of the commission, or to give the same a full execution, in that case the commission is hereby prohibited to execute the same, by appointing any such correspondent meeting, as has been sometimes the practice; but shall allow the same to ly over to the ensuing Assembly, to which such presbyteries or synods shall be answerable for such their conduct, and are hereby appointed to send up with their commissioners their reasons for the same. And the Assembly doth further impower and direct the said commission, to make due application to the King and Parliament, for redress of the grievance of patronage, in case a favourable opportunity for so doing shall occur during the subsistence of this commission. And that in passing their sentences, and in ordering the execution of the same, they strictly observe the 12th act of the Assembly 1736.



VII.

Act anent the Neglect of Kirk-Sessions
to purchase the Acts of Assembly.

THE General Assembly did, and hereby do, revive the enactments of Assembly 1645, page 30. Assembly 1700, Act XVI. and Assembly 1705, Act XVIII. recommending to all Kirk-sessions to buy the printed Acts of Assembly, and enjoining Presbyteries and Synods to make enquiry at privy censures, how far this recommendation is observed by their Sessions within their bounds.

Act

VII.

Act appointing the Diet of the next General Assembly.

THE next General Assembly of this National Church is appointed to be held in this place on Thursday the 19th day of May, in the year 1774.

Collected and extracted from the Records of the General Assembly, by

GEORGE WISHART, Cls. Ecc. Scot.

OVERTURE

[The General Assembly re-transmits to Presbyteries the following Overtures:]

**OVERTURE anent Probationers being
licensed without the bounds of the
Church.**

WHEREAS it is a matter of the greatest importance to the interests of religion to prevent persons not duly qualified from being licensed to preach the gospel; and, as it has been often complained of, that several persons not qualified according to the acts of this Church, have retired out of its bounds to places where they were not well known in order to obtain a licence. Therefore the General Assembly prohibit all persons educated, or residing within the bounds of this Church, from going out of its bounds to obtain licenses to preach; and enact and declare licenses obtained in that manner to be null and void, unless it shall appear that such persons have carried with them a recommendation in the usual form from the presbytery where they have resided.

**OVERTURE anent the Age of Ruling
Elders, and the electing them to repre-
sent Sessions in the Presbytery and
Synod.**

THE General Assembly called for an overture anent the age of Ruling Elders, and the electing them to represent sessions in the Presbytery and Synod, which was given in to the General Assembly 1771, and by them ordered to lye over till Assembly 1772, which was read, and is as follows: *Primo*, That no person shall be ordained an elder of this Church before he is twenty-one
H years

years of age compleat. *Secundo*, That all Presbytery Elders shall be elected within two months after the sitting of Synod, to attend the Presbytery and ensuing Synod of that bounds, and in case of death or demission, a new Elder shall be made within one month of the same. *Tertio*, That every Elder so chosen shall produce an extract of his election under the hand of the Session-clerk, before he be received on the roll of either Presbytery or Synod. The General Assembly ordered the above to be re-transmitted as an overture to the several Presbyteries, and appoints them to return their opinions thereupon to the next General Assembly.

OVERTURE anent Members of inferior Courts judging in Causes appealed from them.

Edinburgh, May 29. 1771.

THE General Assembly took into consideration the overture anent members of inferior courts judging in superior courts in causes appealed from them, which had been transmitted to Presbyteries by several preceeding Assemblies, and had originally come before the Assembly in the year 1754, from the Commission of the then foregoing Assembly, the tenor whereof follows: The Commission considering, that the present practice of this Church, whereby the members of inferior judicatories are excluded from judging or voting in the superior judicatories, in case of an appeal, is contrary to the practice of all other courts, both of law and equity, and in some measure subversive of that exact purity which is a leading part of our constitution, as it sometimes subjects the sentence of the far greater number to that of the lesser; and further, considering that, by this means, those who a little before acted in the character of judges, are obliged to stand

at

at the bar, on a level with the pannel, must enter into the spirit and warmth of a party, and perhaps are condemned for no other reason, than giving sentence according to their best judgment, and which they would willingly have altered upon a review ; and as it often, if not always, happens that, when the members of inferior courts, before whom the cause was first tried, and thoroughly canvassed, are removed, the affair is not sufficiently understood, particularly because those who voted among the minority are not allowed to assign any reasons for their conduct, except they have entered a complaint, which one would not chuse to do unless in a very strong case ; and every one knows, that, in the course of reasoning, things frequently cast up, which perplex or mislead the judges, that could easily have been obviated or cleared up, if the members of the inferior courts had not been deprived of the liberty of speaking. On all these accounts, and for many other obvious reasons, the Commission propose, that the Assembly should transmit an overture to the consideration of the several Presbyteries, for allowing the members of inferior judicatories to sit, judge and vote in the superior courts, in cases of appeals, as they do at present in the case of a reference. The General Assembly did, and hereby do re-transmit the said overture to the several Presbyteries, with this particular injunction, that they consider the same, on or before the day of electing their members to the next General Assembly.

TABLE

A

TABLE of the printed Acts of the General Assembly, held in the Year 1773.

- I. *THE King's Commission to CHARLES Lord Cathcart, produced and ordered to be recorded. Page 3*
- II. *The King's most gracious Letter to the General Assembly, presented to them by his Majesty's Commissioner. 5*
- III. *The General Assembly's Answer to the King's most gracious Letter. 7*
- IV. *The General Assembly's congratulatory Address to the King, on the happy event of the birth of a Prince. 9*
- V. *Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for reformation of the Highlands and Islands, and for managing his Majesty's Royal Bounty for that end. 11*
- VI. *Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for discussing affairs referred to them. 17*
- VII. *Act anent the neglect of Kirk-Sessions to purchase the Acts of Assembly. 27*
- VIII. *Act appointing the diet of the next General Assembly. 28*

INDEX

INDEX OR ABRIDGEMENT

OF THE

Actings and Proceedings of the General Assembly of
the Church of Scotland, held in the Year 1773,
which are not printed at full length.

May 20. 1773. Sess. 1st.

AFTER sermon by the Rev. Mr Adam Ferguson,
minister of the gospel at Moulin, Moderator of
the last General Assembly, the Ministers and Ruling
Elders convened in the Assembly-house; and after
prayer by the said Mr Adam Ferguson, Dr John
Drysdale, one of the ministers of Edinburgh, was
chosen Moderator, and, at the Assembly's desire,
took the chair.

The King's Commission to the Right Hon. Charles Lord
Cathcart, to represent his Majesty's Royal person,
read and recorded.

The King's most gracious letter to this Assembly read
and recorded.

The Commissioner's speech at opening this Assembly,
and the Moderator's speech in return thereto.

His Majesty's Royal warrant for L. 1000 Sterling deliver-
ed into the Assembly by his Grace the Commissioner,
and ordered to be recorded.

A committee named for answering the King's most
gracious letter.

A committee named for revising the commissions to the
members of this Assembly, censuring absents from
the diets thereof; naming ministers to preach before
his Grace the Commissioner; receiving in lists of pro-
bationers in the several presbyteries, in order to their
being recorded.

I

Committee

I N D E X 1773.

Committee for overtures named.

Committee for bills, references, and appeals, named.
Adjournment.

May 21. 1773. Sess. 2d.

Sederunt.

A diet spent in prayer.

Act VII. of Assembly 1718, for the better dispatch of the business of the Assembly, read, and the observation thereof enjoined.

Ministers named to preach before his Grace the King's Commissioner.

The committee for overtures and bills appointed to meet this evening at their usual places.

Adjournment.

May 22. 1773. Sess. 3d.

Sederunt.

A new commission produced.

The roll of causes transmitted by the committee for bills called for, produced, and read over.

Resolve anent taking in causes.

The report of the committee for revising commissions, having passed the committee for overtures, the same was called for and read.

The objection to the commission from the presbytery of Chanonry, heard, and the commission rejected.

The objection to the substitution in the commission from the presbytery of Langholm in favours of Mr Scotland, heard, the same found informal, and that Mr Scotland could not sit as a member of this Assembly.

A petition and complaint at the instance of Convener John Campbell, ruling elder, chosen to represent the burgh of Ayr in this Assembly; and a petition for Mr Thomas Walker, a dissenter and complainer against a sentence of the presbytery of Ayr, refusing to attest Mr Campbell's commission, heard, and the commission rejected.

A committee

I N D E X 1773.

- A committee appointed to prepare an address to his Majesty on the late birth of a Prince.
- A committee named to revise the actings and proceedings of the committee named by last Assembly, for managing the Royal Bounty for reformation of the Highlands and Islands.
- A committee named to revise the actings and proceedings of the Commission of the late General Assembly.
- A committee named to audit the Procurator and Agent's accompts, consider the state of the public money, and prepare overtures about the same.
- The draught of an answer to the King's most gracious letter to this Assembly, brought in and approven; and his Grace the Commissioner, at the Assembly's request, undertakes to transmit the same to his Majesty.
- The committee for overtures empowered to receive in instructions.
- The committee for overtures and bills appointed to meet on Monday morning at ten o'clock, in their usual places.
- Adjournment.

May 24. 1773. Sess. 4th.

Sederunt.

- New commissions produced.
- Upon reading the sentence of the Assembly on Saturday, anent the Assembly's rejecting the commission from the burgh of Ayr, dissents entered by several members.
- The draught of an address to his Majesty on the late birth of a Prince, brought in and approven, and his Grace the Commissioner, at the Assembly's request, undertakes to transmit the same to his Majesty.
- The report of the committee for the better order of the house, called for, read, and approven, with a few amendments on what is proposed by the committee, and the committee continued with the powers formerly given them.

A committee

I N D E X 1773.

A committee named to consider an overture anent the increase of Popery.

An overture transmitted by the committee for overtures, from the synod of Murray, praying that the Assembly may alter the time of the synod's meeting, from the second Tuesday of August to the fourth Tuesday of April, and appoint it to be held annually upon the said fourth Tuesday of April, read, and agreed to.

A representation for the trustees of the Widows Fund, and a letter from Dr Webster to said trustees, given in by Mr John Warden preses of the trustees, read, a committee appointed to meet with the trustees and commune on this subject, and to report on Friday next, when the Assembly are to take this matter under their consideration.

The report of the committee for bills called for, given in, and read over.

The Synod books called for.

A committee named to revise the synod-book of Angus and Mearns.

A committee named to revise the synod-book of Glenelg.

A committee named to revise the synod-book of Merse and Teviotdale.

The synod-books of Fife, Perth and Stirling, Aberdeen, Murray, Ross, Sutherland and Caithness, Orkney, Lothian and Tweeddale, Dumfries, Galloway, Glasgow and Ayr, Argyle, and the presbytery-book of Zetland, not being brought up to this Assembly, resolved that the reasons thereof be enquired into.

A petition for Mr James Burges schoolmaster at Scoon, and preacher of the gospel, licensed by a classical meeting of presbyterian ministers at Newcastle upon Tyne, against a sentence of the presbytery of Perth, refusing to proceed upon his license to authorise him to preach the gospel as a licentiate of this Church, heard; and the license sustained.

An appeal of Mr John Barclay preacher of the gospel, from a sentence of the presbytery of Fordoun, in an affair respecting his character and certificate, heard; the

I N D E X 1773.

the appeal dismissed, and the cause remitted to the presbytery to proceed therein without delay.

Resolve anent causes.

The committee for overtures and bills appointed to meet to-morrow morning at ten o'clock, in their usual places.

Adjournment.

May 25. 1773. Sess. 5th.

Sederunt.

A new commission produced.

The report of the committee for bills called for, given in, and read over.

A petition for the magistrates of Montrose, craving a collection to be made through all the parishes in Scotland, for the purpose of building a bridge over the river of Northesk, produced and read; the desire thereof granted, and a committee appointed to draw up an act and recommendation for that purpose.

Resolve anent causes.

An appeal of Sir John Stewart of Allanbank, Baronet, Patron, and several other heritors of the parish of St Ninians, from a sentence of the presbytery of Stirling, delaying to admit Mr David Thomson minister at Gargunnock as minister of St Ninians, heard; the presbytery appointed to admit Mr Thomson minister at St Ninians, upon the last Tuesday of June next, between the hours of ten in the forenoon and four in the afternoon; all the ministers of the presbytery of Stirling appointed to attend that day, and if a quorum of three be present, to proceed to the admission; and that they shall report their diligence to the Commission in August, or any subsequent meeting thereof, with the names of all the ministers present; and the Commission appointed, in case the settlement has not taken effect, to summon the presbytery of Stirling to appear before the next Assembly to answer for their disobedience; and also, if the admission has taken effect, and if any members of

K presbytery

I N D E X 1773.

presbytery have not attended at the admission, to summon them to appear before the bar of next Assembly, to answer for their disobedience; and the Moderator appointed to write to the Patron of St Ninians, acquainting him of the sentence passed by the Assembly; and recommending to him, and the other heritors, that upon the settlement's taking place, he would take the speediest method of providing an assistant in the parish of St Ninians.

The committee anent the Widows Fund appointed to meet to-morrow morning at nine o'clock in the trustees hall.

The committee for overtures and bills appointed to meet to-morrow morning at ten o'clock, in their usual places.

Adjournment.

May 26. 1773. *Sess. 6th.*

Sederunt.

Upon reading the sentence of the Assembly yesterday, anent the Assembly's sentence in the cause of St Ninians, dissents entered by several members.

A committee appointed to revise the synod-book of Ross.

An overture from the presbytery of Dumblane anent the manse of Norrieston, remitted to a committee.

An appeal of Niell Campbell doer for his Majesty, patron of the parish of Cardross, and other heritors of that parish, from a sentence of the synod of Glasgow and Ayr affirming a sentence of the presbytery of Dunbarton, refusing to sustain a call to Mr MacAulay to be minister of said parish, heard. The sentences of the presbytery and synod reversed, the call sustained to Mr M'Aulay the presentee, and the presbytery appointed to take the proper steps for his translation from Inverary to Cardross; and in case of a sentence translating him, to proceed with all convenient speed to his admission as minister at Cardross,

I N D E X 1773.

droß, according to the rules of the Church: Upon which some members craved it might be marked they did not assent to the above judgment.

Resolve anent causes.

The committee for overtures and bills appointed to meet this evening at seven o'clock in their usual places.

Adjournment.

May 27. 1773. Sess. 7.

Sederunt.

The draught of an act and recommendation for a collection for the bridge over the river of Northesk, given in, read over, and approven, and an extract appointed to be given by the Clerks to the agent for the petitioners, that copies thereof may be transmitted to the several presbyteries; and the presbyteries at their first meeting, after receiving said act, appointed to fix a day in their respective bounds for making said collection betwixt and the first of January next.

A petition for Mr Walter Morison minister at Arderfeer, another petition for Mr Morison, and Mr Gordon minister at Aldarn, and a representation from the synod of Murray, craving the erection of a new presbytery at Nairn, heard; and a committee appointed to consider and report upon these petitions.

The report of the committee appointed to consider the affair of Norrieston, given in, read, and approven.

The report of the committee appointed to consider the overture anent the growth of Popery, given in, read, and appointed to ly on the table till Saturday.

A motion that the Procurator should wear a gown when he sits in his place, agreed to.

An appeal of his Grace Douglas Duke of Hamilton and Brandon, patron of the parish of Cambuslang, and other heretors of said parish, from a sentence of the synod of Glasgow and Ayr affirming a sentence of the

I N D E X, 1773.

the presbytery of Hamilton, refusing to sustain a call to Mr James Meek minister at Lesmehago to be minister of the parish of Cambuslang, heard. The sentences of the synod and presbytery reversed, the call and presentation sustained to Mr Meek, and the presbytery of Hamilton appointed to take the proper steps for his translation from Lesmehago to Cambuslang; and in case of a sentence translating him, to proceed with all convenient speed to his admission at Cambuslang, according to the rules of the Church: To which judgment Mr Walter Gibson surgeon in Leith craved it might be marked he could not assent.

An appeal of Andrew Wilson and others, elders of the parish of Lintrathen, and of James Smyth of Balharry, one of the four heretors of the parish of Lintrathen, from a sentence of the presbytery of Meigle in the settlement of said parish, heard; and the appeal dismissed as incompetent.

The committee for overtures and bills appointed to meet to-morrow at ten o'clock in their usual places.
Adjournment.

May 28. 1773. Sess. 8th.

Sederunt.

Upon reading the sentence of Assembly of yesterday in the case of Cambuslang, two members adhered to the protest taken by Mr Gibson at intimating thereof. The report of the committee appointed to consider the petitions anent the erection of the new presbytery of Nairn, given in and read, and the desires of the petitioners granted.

The report of the committee for bills called for, given in, and read over.

A petition for Robert Fleming Printer to the Church, craving to renew the orders of the Church for the several kirk-sessions being in possession of the Printed Acts, heard; and a committee appointed to consider the same.

The

I N D E X 1773.

The report of the committee for overtures concerning returns from presbyteries on overtures transmitted by former Assemblies, called for, given in and read; and the consideration thereof delayed till an after diet.

The procurator, agent, stationer and printer's accompts produced, and ordered to ly on the table.

The report of the committee appointed to meet with the trustees of the Widows Fund, called for, given in and read; the articles in Dr Webster's letter read, and the report of the committee thereupon. The first, second, third, fourth, and sixth articles agreed to, the fifth article with amendments, the seventh and eighth agreed to be dropt, and these alterations ordered to be printed and transmitted to presbyteries, to report their opinion to the trustees before their stated meeting in February 1774, that matters may be prepared for next Assembly. The thanks of the House given to Dr Webster for his attention to the fund.

An appeal of his Majesty's Officers of State for his Majesty's interest, from a sentence of the synod of Angus and Mearns affirming a sentence of the presbytery of Dundee, sustaining a call to Mr John Playfair, presented by Lord Gray to the united parishes of Liff and Benvie to be minister thereof, heard. The sentences of the presbytery and synod affirmed, and the presbytery appointed to proceed to the settlement with all convenient speed, according to the rules of the Church.

The committee for overtures and bills appointed to meet to-morrow morning at ten o'clock in their usual places.

Adjournment.

May 29. 1773. Sess. 9th.

Sederunt.

Upon reading the sentence of the Assembly yesterday on the erection of the presbytery of Nairn, the Assembly

L

sembly

I N D E X 1773.

sembly appointed their first meeting to be held at Nairn the fourth Tuesday of July next.

Petition for the presbytery of Strathbogie anent the deposition of certain elders, heard. A committee appointed to consider the same, and report.

Act approving the accompt of Mr David Dalrymple Procurator for the Church, and exonerating and discharging him and his cautioners of the sum of L. 500 Sterling, and ordering that he debit himself in his next accompt for the sum of L. 100 : 3 : 4² Sterling, being the balance due by him.

Act approving the accompt of James Edmonstone agent for the Church, and sub-clerk to the General Assembly ; and appointing that he debit himself in his next accompt for the sum of L. 5 : 5 : 7 Sterling, being the balance in his hands.

Act approving the accompts of William Miller stationer, and Robert Fleming printer to the Church.

The report of the visitors of the commission-book given in and read, and the Commission's conduct approved of ; the Assembly's thanks given from the Chair to the Moderator of the Commission, for their faithfulness and diligence in the affairs committed to them, and their book ordered to be attested.

The report of the committee for naming the members of the commission, and drawing instructions to them, given in and approved of ; Mr Scotland, the member from the presbytery of Chanonry who were rejected upon informalities in their commission, and Mr James Brown, were added thereto, in place of the Moderator.

The report of the visitors of the Royal Bounty Register given in and read. The conduct of the managers approved of, and their book ordered to be attested.

A committee named for managing the Royal Bounty this year, with a commission and instructions to them.

The report of the committee for overtures called for, produced and read over. An overture from the synod, and another from the presbytery of Aberdeen, ordered to ly upon the table.

Upon

I N D E X 1773

Upon report from the committee for overtures, the overture anent members of inferior courts judging in causes appealed from them, once more transmitted; also the overture anent probationers being licensed without the bounds of the Church, and overture respecting ruling elders, &c. re-transmitted; and a motion that the overture anent probationers should be made an interim act, ordered to ly on the table till Monday.

The report of the committee on the overture anent the increase of Popery called for, given in, read, and a standing committee named to consider the state of facts relating to the report, and to take every step that shall appear to them most proper for remedying the evil complained of.

An appeal of John Kennedy of Skedholm, and Mr William Bryden minister at Dalton, and of the Kirk-Session of Lochmaben, and Mr Richard Brown moderator thereof, from sundry sentences of the synod of Dumfries refusing to receive an appeal from a sentence of the presbytery of Lochmaben, dismissing two libels at the instance of the said John Kennedy against the said Mr Richard Brown, and a reference of the whole affair by the presbytery, several of the parties heard at great length, and the remainder of the cause adjourned till Monday next.

Adjournment.

May 31. 1773. Sess. ult.

Sederunt.

The report of the trustees for managing the fund for a provision to ministers widows, &c. containing a state of the fund under their managment; and an account of their proceedings since last Assembly, given in, and ordered to be recorded in the separate register kept for that purpose.

The committee on the window-tax continued with the same powers as appointed by last and former Assemblies.

List of probationers produced, and their number ordered to be recorded.

The

I N D E X 1773.

The synod-book of Angus and Mearns attested.

The synod-book of Glenelg attested.

The synod-book of Merse and Teviotdale attested.

The synod-book of Ross attested.

The Assembly ordered all the synods whose books had not been sent up to this Assembly, to be sent up to next Assembly, viz. Perth and Stirling, Fife, Aberdeen, Murray, Sutherland and Caithness, Orkney, Lothian and Tweeddale, Dumfries, Galloway, Glasgow and Air, Argyle and the presbytery-book of Zetland.

The report of the committee appointed by last Assembly, anent the reference from the presbytery of Gerloch, called for, but the same not being ready, the committee was continued.

The report of the committee on the petition for Robert Fleming, called for, given in and approved: The enactments of Assembly 1645, page 30th, Assembly 1700, Act 16th, and Assembly 1705, Act 18th, recommending to all Kirk-sessions to buy the printed Acts of Assembly,—Revived.

The report of the committee, appointed to consider the applications for shares of the public money, called for and read.

The General Assembly appointed as follows: The desire of the petition for Mr Robert Lumsden minister of Kildrummy, refused as to the augmentation, but the Assembly agreed to it with respect to the mors; and recommended it to the Procurator and Agent for the Church, to give their assistance at the expence of the Church in case there should be a process.

An overture from the procurator for the Church was produced, bearing that he had produced with the overture, an account of the debts of the Church, from which it appeared that the two first articles which bear interest, viz. L. 200 to the visitors of the Highlands, in the year 1760, and L. 300 to the Commissioners sent to London with the address in the year 1761, were still resting owing. That these sums had been borrowed by the respective Commissioners, who granted their bonds for the same. That payment of principal and interest of the L. 300 bond
being

being demanded at Whitsunday last, the Procurator was obliged to interpose and came under engagements to pay the same by three moieties in the 1774, 1775 and 1776, which was the utmost that the funds of the Church could bear. Upon this plan the debts of the Church might be paid off, provided the committee attended to the Act of Assembly 1771; which Act prohibits the receiving any new applications in private causes till the funds be fully cleared. At the same time the three processes at the instance of Mr James Allison minister at Holm in Orkney, Mr James Bishop minister of Kinclevan, and Mr Alexander Pope minister at Reay in Caithness, being of a public nature, and near concluded, ought to be continued on the public funds, and the expence defrayed by the Agent accordingly. Which overture being considered by the Assembly, they adopted the same; and refused the desire of all the other petitions for shares of the public money.

The reasons of dissent against the judgment of Assembly in the cause of St. Ninians, given in, read, and ordered to ly *in retentis*.

The reasons of dissent against the judgments of the Assembly, in the settlements of Cardross and Cambuslang, given in, read, and ordered to ly *in retentis*.

The reasons of dissent from the judgment of this Assembly, anent the commission from the burgh of Air, given in, read, and ordered to ly *in retentis*.

The consideration of the appeals of Messrs Brown and Kennedy, &c. resumed; Mr Brown rebuked from the chair, an extract of the sentence ordered to be given to the presbytery to be recorded in their books, the libel against Mr Brown dismissed, and Mr Kennedy reponed to the full exercise of his office, and assoilzied from the libels given him.

An answer to the Assembly's letter to his Majesty produced and read.

The overtures from the synod and presbytery of Aberdeen ordered to ly upon the table.

The motion with respect to turning the overture anent probationers into an interim act, dropt.

Protestations admitted.

M

A

INDEX 1773.

A committee named to revise the minutes of the Assembly's proceedings at this and all other diets thereof, and to pitch upon such of the Acts of Assembly as are to be standing rules, in order to their being printed.

The minutes of this day's sederunt were read; the minutes of former sederunts being read at the diets subsequent thereto.

The Moderator's speech to the General Assembly and his Majesty's Commissioner.

The Lord Commissioner's speech to the Assembly.

Act appointing the next meeting of Assembly.

The Assembly concluded with prayer and singing of psalms.

F I N I S.

